

Article - Natural Resources

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§5–1201.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) In this subtitle, “open space” or “open area” means any space or area characterized by great natural scenic beauty, or whose existing openness, natural condition, and present state of use, if retained, would enhance the present or potential value of abutting or surrounding urban development, or maintain or enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources.

(c) “State wildlands” means wildlands owned by the State and includes the following three types:

Type 1. A primitive area which by its size or location is in effect untouched by urban civilization, and can offer the experience of solitude and self-reliance. Since lands at the higher elevations are important for protection of watersheds, are ecologically vulnerable if unwisely altered by human interference, and may be uneconomic for logging or construction, they may be suitable for this classification.

Type 2. A unit of importance for all the natural sciences, especially ecology, and with outstanding value for education, research, and appreciation of natural processes. Preservation in the desired natural condition is the prevailing purpose of these holdings. Visitation shall be regulated to ensure this preservation on a permanent basis.

Type 3. An area which is not of ecological or primitive stature, but which has the appearance of being in an untouched natural state or is capable of attaining that appearance if held and managed for this purpose.

(d) “Wildlands” means limited areas of land or water which have retained their wilderness character, although not necessarily completely natural and undisturbed, or have rare or vanishing species of plant or animal life or similar features of interest worthy of preservation for use of present and future residents of the State. This may include unique ecological, geological, scenic, and contemplative recreational areas on State lands.

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